

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An order reception and content transmission system configured to accept an order for a content, which is requested from a client via a network, the system comprising:

a plurality of content servers each of which stores the same content; and

a reception server having a first device configured to select one of the content servers based on load conditions thereof, a second device configured to receive a first access request relating to the order from the client, and a third device configured to issue a permission ticket to the client,

wherein the content servers transmit the content to the client if the client possesses the permission ticket to access the content servers, register information representing that ~~the a~~ a permission ticket used before that transmission is invalid, and the content servers deny access from the client for the content if the client ~~accesses the content servers but~~ does not possess a permission ticket or said information is registered in the content servers, ~~and~~

wherein when all the content servers are busy, the reception server estimates a waiting time until an available content server is obtained based on current busy states of the content servers and notifies the client of the estimated time, and

wherein the permission ticket locates said selected one of the content servers on the network.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Original): The system according to claim 2, wherein the third device of the reception server specifies a time period to control an access using the permission ticket from the client.

Claims 5-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A method for processing an order for a content, which is requested from a client, by a reception server and a plurality of content servers, the method comprising:

providing same contents in each of the content servers;

under the control of the reception server,

selecting one of the content servers based on load conditions thereof;

receiving a first access request relating to the order from the client; and

issuing a permission ticket,

wherein the content servers transmit the content to the client if the client possesses the permission ticket to access the content servers, register information representing that ~~the a~~ permission ticket used before that transmission is invalid, and the content servers deny access from the client for the content if the client ~~accesses the content servers but~~ does not possess a permission ticket or said information is registered in the content servers, and

wherein when all the content servers are busy, the reception server estimates a waiting time until an available content server is obtained from current busy states of the content servers and notifies the client of the estimated time; and

wherein the permission ticket locates said selected one of the content servers on the network.

Claim 12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Original): The method according to claim 11, further comprising:
specifying a time period to control an access using the permission ticket from the
client.

Claims 14-20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (New) The system according to claim 2, wherein the waiting time is
estimated using a throughput per unit time from a memory quantity used by the content
server whose load is minimum.

Claim 22 (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein the waiting time is
estimated using a throughput per unit time from a memory quantity used by the content
server whose load is minimum.